Demolition of village Nangal Devat

2156. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to demolish a 700 years' old village Nangal Deval in the proximity of a Five Star Hotel Centaur situated at a distance of 3 furlongs from the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what alternative arrangements to settle the inhabitants of the village that might be uprooted as a result thereof are proposed to be made by Government; and

(d) at what rate Government propose to compensate the affected people in respect of their land|houses to be acquired by Government for demolition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Land measuring 263 bigha 5 biswa i.e. 55 acres of village Nangal Devat has been acquired for the purpose of expansion/development of the Palam Airport.

(c) To rehabilitate the persons affected by the acquisition of land of village Nangal Devat, land measuring 713 bigha 2 biswa (i.e. 148.56 acres) was notified in village Malikpur Kohi *alias* Rangpuri for a public purpose. Possession of land measuring 711 bigha 13 biswa has already been taken over on 29.1.87.

(d) Compensation amounting to Rs. 3,85,48, 349-40 was assessed for the land acquired in village Nangal Devat. This amount also includes compensation amounting to Rs. 64,96,599-00 for structures.

Rehabilitation of blind persons

2157. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the population of blind persons in the country; and

(b) what measures are being taken by Government for their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): (a) According to the National Sample Survey conducted in 1981 there were 34.74 lakhs visually handicapped persons in the country.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

The primary responsibility for the welfare and upliftment of the handicapped including the blind falls on the State Governments. Nevertheless the Centre has been assisting the State Governments as well as the Voluntary Organisations in programmes designed for rehabilitation of the handicapped, including the blind. All efforts are being made by the Union Government to provide the infrastructure for the betterment of this section of the society.

All programmes for the handicapped are designed to cover all categories of handicapped and blind are also covered under majority of these programmes. A National Institute for the Visually Handicapped at Dehradun is responsible exclusively for programmes for the visually handicapped which include training, research, development of model services for such persons development and production of low-cost aids. vocational training and placement services etc.